

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 254

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1874

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, CPAS, PN, RQ

SUBJ: COMPLAINT OF JUBAL HORTA OF PUERTO RICO

REF: HOWARD - DANIELS TELCON OF APRIL 1, 1974

1. FOLLOWING TELCON, APPOINTMENT WAS REQUESTED WITH AMBASSADOR WATSON, CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHO RECEIVED CHARGE AT ONCE. AFTER SUBSTANCE OF TELCON WAS RELATED TO AMBASSADOR WATSON, HE TOLD CHARGE THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS WELL INFORMED ABOUT OLD FAMILY QUARREL AND HE WOULD GET FACTS IMMEDIATELY.

2. AMBASSADOR WATSON CALLED MOTHER OF TWO CHILDREN WHO WERE ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN "ABDUCTED" FROM SAN JUAN. MOTHER (AURIA) INFORMED AMBASSADOR WATSON THAT HER TWO CHILDREN HAD RETURNED TO PANAMA AFTER VISITING THEIR FATHER, DR. JUBAL HORTA. HORTA CHILDREN ACCOMPANIED CONSUL GENERAL BULTRON, WHO ALSO TRAVELED TO PANAMA WITH HIS OWN TWO CHILDREN (AT LEAST FOUR CHILDREN IN GROUP). IN REPLY TO QUERY CONCERNING LEGAL CUSTODY OF HORTA CHILDREN, AMBASSADOR WATSON SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MOTHER ACCORDING TO PANAMANIAN LAW IN DIVORCE CASES.

3. FYI. AMBASSADOR WATSON TOLD CHARGE THAT DR. JUBAL HORTA, FORMERLY MARRIED TO SISTER OF GENERAL TORRIJOS, HAD BEEN EXPELLED BY GENERAL TORRIJOS FROM PANAMA TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO AS "UNDESIRABLE." PROBLEM SEEMED TO STEM FROM HORTA'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MARRIAGE TO
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TORRIJOS' SISTER, AND PUTTING "ON AIRS" IN PANAMA.

WATSON SAID THERE HAD BEEN "DOMESTIC DIFFICULTY" OVER
PERIOD OF TIME AND THAT HORTA ALWAYS WAS SEEKING TO
CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT.
DANIELS

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